

both policy committees for preparing this format. I was pleased to work with the Democratic leader in securing a time for this debate tomorrow. This week, Senator COCHRAN will be marking up the supplemental appropriations bill. We hope to have that available next week.

Again, we have much on the plate for this week both in terms of floor schedule and other important Senate events. I look forward to a busy legislative period this spring, and trust all of my colleagues are rested and ready to proceed.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR HOWELL HEFLIN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding that the distinguished Republican leader is going to make a statement regarding the Pope. I think that is timely. I will do so at a later time today.

I wanted to pay tribute to Howell Heflin. He was a wonderful man who served in the Senate for 18 years. He actually revolutionized the court system in Alabama. The first amendment they ever had to their Constitution was a result of his reorganization of the court when he was chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court.

Howell Heflin holds the record here, serving as a member of the Ethics Committee for 13 years. He did that with dignity during some of the most difficult times we have seen in the Senate with some of the problems Senators had.

I had the good fortune of traveling to Alabama yesterday to be with his widow Mike at that funeral in the rural community of Tusculumbia, AL. That is where he had his home and law practice and where he died. He had very little suffering. He was 83 years old. He got sick one afternoon and died within an hour or two after that.

The Senate will always be a better place as a result of Senator Heflin having been a Member. Death comes at inopportune times. I want his widow to know that even though there were only a few Senators there, including Senator BINGAMAN, and Senator SHELBY, who had another funeral he had to go to, Senator SESSIONS was there, it came at such an inopportune time. It was the end of the recess period. People didn't know about it, and it was hard for people to be there, but it doesn't take away from the dignity of that proceeding. It was a wonderful funeral. I received a number of phone calls yesterday and today of people wanting to be there. For example, the wind was so heavy yesterday that they had to change the place of takeoff from Andrews to Dulles. As a result of that,

Senator BIDEN, driving down from Delaware, could not make it. He had to drive 35, 40 miles.

Again, we send our condolences to Tom, his son, and Mike, his widow. As a Senate family, we felt so good about Senator Heflin in life and in death.

ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT YUSHCHENKO

I also say this to the majority leader. I had the good fortune during this break to lead a bipartisan CODEL. We had the opportunity to sit down and talk to President Yushchenko. Here is a man they tried to kill. We think we know who tried to assassinate him. Here is a man whose face is a little disfigured, but his spirit is not. He has the ability, I believe, to bring about a change in that country that will be for generations to come. It is a burgeoning democracy. Things are on the move, and he has a dynamic personality. I am glad he is going to be able to address a joint session of Congress because he is what our country is all about. So I commend and applaud the Speaker for arranging for this man, a good man, to speak before a joint session of Congress. It will make us all better for having the ability and the opportunity to listen to him.

I apologize to the leader for taking more time than usual, but I will return at a later time and make some remarks about the Pope, who passed away.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

HONORING POPE JOHN PAUL II

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today, this body, the Senate, and the world community grieve for the passing of Pope John Paul II. He passed away Saturday evening, April 2, in his bed overlooking St. Peter's Square. Millions of Catholics and non-Catholics alike mourn the departure of one of the greatest spiritual leaders and moral teachers of the modern era.

Pope John Paul set an extraordinary example of personal integrity and courage, not only for his fellow Catholics but for people of every religious and philosophical viewpoint.

Pope John Paul was born Karol Jozef Wojtyla on May 18, 1920, in Poland, a country which at the time was a desolate, impoverished, and war-torn place. By the time John Paul reached the age of 21, every close member of his family had died. Most people would have been devastated by such losses. But for John Paul, this early experience of suffering deepened his spirituality and his capacity to find meaning in man's frailty.

John Paul was ordained as a priest at the age of 26. In 1964, he became the Bishop of Krakow. Three years later, he was elevated to cardinal by Pope Paul VI. In 1978, he became the first non-Italian in 455 years to be elected Pope of the Catholic Church.

For the next 2½ decades, Pope John Paul campaigned tirelessly for human rights and dignity throughout the

world. He practiced and inspired resistance to the great totalitarian systems that rose and, with his help, fell in the 20th century. He had the key insight that, in his words, "the historical experience of socialist countries has sadly demonstrated that collectivism does not do away with alienation, but rather increases it, adding to it a lack of basic necessities and economic inefficiency."

His historic trip to Poland in 1979 catalyzed the Solidarity movement and led to the peaceful dissolution of the Soviet empire.

John Paul fostered harmony between Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, and Protestant Christians. He reached out in friendship to Jews and members of other faiths, and he warmly promoted interfaith understanding.

He was the first Pope to visit a mosque and the first Pope to visit a synagogue. A poet, a playwright, and a philosopher, Pope John Paul II dedicated himself to the defense of the weakest and most vulnerable members of the human family.

He eloquently defended the right to life of every human being, irrespective of race or sex, age or size, stage of development, or condition of dependence. He believed that "science can purify religion from error and superstition. Religion can purify science from idolatry and false absolutes."

On his visits to the United States, he called on all Americans to be faithful to the great principles of liberty included in our Declaration of Independence and in the Constitution. Even in his last frail moments, he remained devoted to God and the cause of justice. His selfless service to God and man will remain an inspiration to all people of good will across the globe.

I will close with a poem he wrote for his mother at the age of 19. It reflects his extraordinarily sensitive nature and closes with a prayer the world now sends out to him. It is entitled "Over This, Your White Grave":

Over this, your white grave,
The flowers of life in white,
So many years without you,
How many have passed out of sight?
Over this, your white grave,
Covered for years, there is a stir
In the air, something uplifting
And, like death, beyond comprehension.
Over this, your white grave,
Oh, Mother, can such loving cease?
For all his filial adoration
A prayer:
Give her eternal peace.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of

morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I believe we secured acceptance from the other side for me to speak for 45 minutes. I might go 10 minutes longer. I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized for 55 minutes as in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHINA'S SPREADING GLOBAL INFLUENCE

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, as I have done many times before on this floor, I rise to address a national security issue of the highest importance, one that demands our utmost attention. I wish to alert this body and the American people to China's spreading global influence and the imminent threat this poses to our national security.

Our past concerns have come to fruition on all levels—economically, militarily, and ideologically. We are on a collision course. As I will detail, China has become a progressive danger we can no longer afford to overlook. As I said, this is not new. Over the years I have made numerous remarks on the Senate floor regarding our national security and China.

During the Clinton administration, there were growing concerns about Chinese espionage, which were later confirmed in the Cox report. The report showed that reality surpassed our worst fears. China had been stealing U.S. nuclear secrets. The W-88 warhead, with which we are all familiar, was the crown jewel of our nuclear program which allowed for up to 10 nuclear warheads to be attached to the same missile. In 1995, we discovered that China had stolen this technology.

Under President Clinton, U.S. companies such as Loral Space and Communications and Hughes Electronics were given the green light to improve the precision and reliability of China's satellites and their nuclear missiles, undoing 50 years of technology export restrictions. China also gained the capability of accurately reaching the continental United States with nuclear missiles and targeted between 13 and 18 U.S. cities. All of this occurred while President Clinton proclaimed "not one missile is pointed at American children." This body responded by investigating to what extent we were lied to and our security was compromised, but ultimately nothing changed.

From those events, the Chinese Government learned that it could rely on our acquiescence and charged ahead. China transferred prohibited weapons technology to North Korea, Pakistan, Libya, Iraq, Iran, Syria, and other countries. China threatened to absorb Taiwan and intimidated our regional treaty allies, South Korea and Japan.

That was 5 years ago. Since then we have had a new administration and

have gone through such major events as 9/11, the current conflict in Iraq, and an ideological shift in the way we fight war. I wish I could say that with the new administration China's conduct has changed. President Bush has taken some steps in the right direction, notably rejuvenating the missile defense system; however, I am afraid that transpiring events tell a different story.

Since 2000, the United States-China Security Economic Review Commission has been holding hearings and issuing annual reports to evaluate "the national security implications of the bilateral trade and economic relationship between the United States and the People's Republic of China." Congress established the Commission to act as the bipartisan authority on how our relationship with China affects our economy, industrial base, China's military and weapons proliferation, and our influence in Asia. I fear their reports have gone largely unnoticed. It is remarkable they have gone unnoticed as significant as they were.

In a most recent report, dated June of 2004, less than a year ago, the Commission makes this alarming opening statement. This is a bipartisan report:

Based on our analyses to date, as documented in detail in our report, the Commission believes that a number of the current trends in U.S.-China relations have negative implications for our long-term economic and national security interests and therefore that U.S. policies in these areas are in need of urgent attention and course corrections.

As the report and recent events show, China has continued on an alarming course in conflict with our national security.

Last January, the Bush administration imposed sanctions against eight large Chinese companies for aiding Iraq's missile program and transferring technology to other problematic countries. There was no public announcement, and the only reason we know about this is that some Sino-American Web sites came across this information on page 133 in the Federal Register. Last December, four companies were sanctioned for the same reason. Many other examples can be cited from 2004, with some of these companies being repeatedly penalized for more than a decade. The fact is that China has repeatedly vowed to curb its weapons sales and has gone back on its promises. This has been going on for some time. I spoke of this on the Senate floor on June 23, 1999.

Beijing made nonproliferation commitments in 1992, 1994, 1998, 2000, and most recently in 2002. The U.S. State Department admits these guarantees came about "only under the imminent threat, or in response to the actual imposition, of sanctions."

The Commission report comments on China's continued assistance to countries such as Libya, Pakistan, Iran, and North Korea. This assistance has continued despite nonproliferation assurances as the report outlines. Keep in mind, they have agreed to all these agreements, and yet the report says:

China's assistance to weapons of mass destruction-related programs in countries of concern continues despite repeated promises to end such activities and the repeated imposition of U.S. sanctions. The Chinese Government and Chinese enterprises have assisted such states to develop their nuclear infrastructure, chemical weapons capabilities, and/or ballistic missile systems notwithstanding a consistent history of denials. Libya's decision to open up its weapons of mass destruction programs and the revelations by Pakistan that A.Q. Khan supplied uranium enrichment technology to Libya, Iran, and North Korea, provides new insight into China's legacy of proliferation. China's continued failure to adequately curb its proliferation practices poses significant national security concerns to the United States.

Again, this is not new. As I stated on the floor on March 15, 1999, China has been stealing our nuclear secrets, but, as the Commission points out, China is now sharing its nuclear knowledge—some of it is quite possibly ours—with other countries. For years China has transferred ballistic and cruise missile technology to countries with troubling proliferation records, but these transfers have evolved to become even more problematic.

Again I quote from the bipartisan Commission that spent 4 years studying this relationship:

... Chinese transfers have evolved from sales of complete missile systems, to exports of largely dual use nuclear, chemical, and missile components and technologies ... Recent activities "have aggravated trends that result in ambiguous technical aid, more indigenous capabilities, longer range missiles, and secondary proliferation." Continuing intelligence reports indicate that the Chinese cooperation with Pakistan and Iran remains an integral element of China's foreign policy ... Beijing's failure to control such transfers gives the appearance that these are allowed in accordance with an unstated national policy. China has generally tried to avoid making fundamental changes in its transfer policies by offering the United States carefully worded commitments or exploiting differences between agreements.

As further evidence of this disturbing proliferation, the CIA report to Congress in mid-2003 said that "firms in China provided dual-use missile-related items, raw materials, and/or assistance to ... countries of proliferation concern such as Iran, Libya, and North Korea."

Virtually every country we worry about possesses or has access to some form of chemical, biological, or nuclear weapon, but most lack effective delivery systems. China is a proven violator of nonproliferation treaties that keep such countries from gaining access to delivery system technology. According to State Department testimony, China has a "serial proliferation problem," and while the official line is to crack down on weapons trade, "reality has been quite different." In her January Senate confirmation hearings, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice listed six countries as "outposts of tyranny." China has strong ties to four of these. They are Cuba, Burma, North Korea, and Iran.